News release

The big freeze

3 January 2003

The plunging temperatures and snowy conditions, which have replaced the recent very wet and mild weather, look set to continue into next week, Met Office forecasters are warning.

Already, hilly areas in the north of England, north Wales and Scotland have had up to five inches of snow as a result of the cold arctic air. Bitterly cold conditions are predicted to spread south, affecting the whole of the country over the weekend and into next week. Some places will see snow even at lower levels. Daytime temperatures will struggle to get above freezing, but we should see some sunshine.

Nigel Reed, Head of the Met Office's Operations Centre, said: "This looks likely to be the coldest spell of the winter so far. We are carefully watching developments, particularly around the middle of next week when there is a possibility of significant snowfall."

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